

Application No. 09/937,904

Art Unit 1764

Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the present specification and pending claims.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 have been amended. Claims 18-19 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added with any of these claim amendments, since one of skill in the art would understand that these amendments are minor in character and merely correct grammatical errors.

Further, the changes to the present specification, including the Abstract, address the Examiner's concerns in paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action. These changes to the present specification also do not add new matter.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all objections and allow the currently pending claims.

Abstract

With regard to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, an Abstract was filed with the original International PCT Application No. PCT/FI00/00278 (in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b)).

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With respect to the changes to the Abstract herein, such changes are minor in character. For instance, "comprises" has been replaced with "has."

Specification

The specification has been objected to for the reasons stated in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse,

First, Applicants have deleted the first paragraph on page 3 of the present specification. Second, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the desired heading inserted in the present specification at page 4, before the paragraph at lines 30-31. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims

Claims 2-17 are objected to due to informalities present in the claims (as stated in paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have replaced "characterized in that" with "wherein". With respect to claim 5, the informality has also been addressed ("such as" does not appear in the claim). Applicants do not disclaim the plastic film as this subject matter is included in

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claim 5. A similar change has been made to claim 7, wherein Applicants also do not disclaim the plastic film.

Applicants also note that the Examiner indicates that these changes are suggested amendments and are not a requirement. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that these changes to the claims are for clarification purposes only and are not for purposes of patentability. Accordingly, these claim amendments are not narrowing in scope, and Applicants are in no way conceding any limitations with respect to the interpretation of the claims under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Request for Initialed PTO-1449 Form

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on October 1, 2001. However, Applicants have not yet received a copy of the PTO-1449 form having the Examiner's initials next to each cited reference. Thus, Applicants respectfully request such a copy. Applicants note that three of the four cited references have already been considered, as shown in the initialed PTO-1449 form that was filed with the IDS dated October 30, 2001.

If there are any questions concerning the IDS of October 1, 2001, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number given below.

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Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the consideration given to the present application and claims, especially in light of the comments given at paragraphs 5-7 of the Office Action.

A full and complete response has been made to the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$1,020.00 is attached hereto.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #152,981
Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

ADM/ETP/las
0696-0183P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Abstract